



VANTAGE



SPRING 2008

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VANTAGE HAS GONE GREEN!

Welcome to the new and improved Vantage! By popular demand we have gone paperless to help reduce paper waste and printing costs. Vantage will now be featured exclusively online.

We are always looking for comments and suggestions to improve our newsletter, so thank you to all who helped to start the new format and help save our planet!

Holly Fowler
Writer/Editor of Vantage



NEW STATE DIRECTOR AT BLM-EASTERN STATES

By Scott Swanson
Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Eastern States

Juan Palma is the new State Director for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Eastern States. Under his guidance and leadership, the BLM's mission and vision are carried out in 31 states east of and bordering the Mississippi River. Juan joined the BLM-Eastern States in February, 2008, bringing with him more than 20 years of Federal public service.

Juan began his federal career with the U.S. Forest Service in 1984, where over fifteen subsequent years he worked in a variety of positions including Budget Officer, Administrative Officer, District Ranger, and Deputy Forest Supervisor. From 1997 – 2000, he served as Forest Supervisor on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, followed by a period as Executive Director of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, a bi-state compact agency overseeing regional land-use issues within the Lake Tahoe basin. Since joining the BLM, Juan has served as District Manager in Vale, Oregon, and Field Office Manager in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Among his many accomplishments, Juan highlights the 1997 Lake Tahoe Presidential Summit, hosting the President and Vice-President of the United States, as one of the most exciting times in his career. He is also very proud of work completed in conjunction with the Washoe and Hoopa Tribes. In 2003 Juan received the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service award for outstanding contributions to the Nation's fish and wildlife resources.

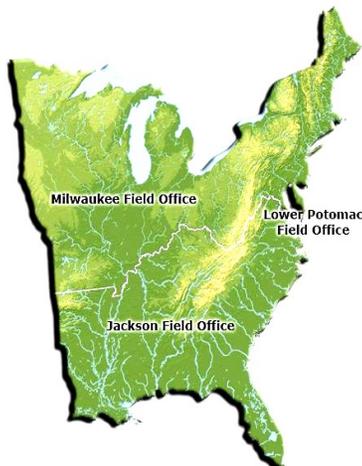
While raised in Toppenish, Washington, Juan's educational endeavors took him to Brigham Young University and Oregon State University, where he ultimately graduated with a degree in Business Management. Juan also studied at the University of Nevada at Reno, earning his Master's degree in Environmental Sciences.

Now with BLM-Eastern States, Juan looks forward to expanding his community-oriented approach to establishing and enhancing partnerships on public lands. As a married father of three, he wants to make memorable experiences for families and individuals alike on the lands the BLM manages in the east. When not at work on those initiatives, Juan can be found tending his garden, spending time with family, or hitting the slopes as an avid snowboarder.

STATE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

BLM's Mission

To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



BLM's 7 Program Areas

- Fire
• Natural Resources
• General Land Office Records
• Wild Horse & Burro
• Energy & Minerals
• Cadastral Survey
• Lands & Realty

Roadmap for the Future – FY08 and Beyond

Dear Eastern States Colleagues:

There is no way to precisely predict what the future may bring for Eastern States – change; however, is inevitable. We, as an organization, will embrace change and deliver our programs to the American people within an ever increasing changing landscape.



Seven Focus Areas in FY08:

Our Eastern States focus for FY08 will be in our seven program areas identified by our ES Leadership Team in our Strategic Direction: Energy & Mineral Resources, Wild Land Fire, Wild Horse & Burro Adoption and Compliance, Natural Resources, Lands and Realty, Cadastral Survey, and General Land Office Records.

Additional Focus in FY08

In addition to these seven program areas we will begin to focus on an eighth program – the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). We have part of a trail system that is already within the NLCS and a very high potential that Congress will ask us to manage a second unit – the Jupiter Inlet National Conservation Area.

Delivery of Our Programs:

How we deliver these programs, to a great extent, will be my leadership focus for FY08:

Transparency – We will set up systems and processes, to resolve issues with full knowledge of all our employees, partners, and vertical and horizontal parts of our organization. We will use the latest technology and creative innovation to help us fulfill our transparency within Eastern States.

Accountability – We will set for ourselves strong accountability at the individual level and at the organizational level. We expect strong employee EPAPs, individual development plans, and we will correct employee issues in a timely fashion. We expect our employees to be rewarded and celebrate their accomplishments, and Eastern States will be accountable for the dollars and workload targets allocated to us.

Participative Management – We expect all first-line supervisors, mid-level managers, and senior managers to manage in a participative style that comes from the heart and shows caring for people (inside and outside the organization).

Leadership is Visible – We expect leaders to lead, make difficult decisions, and deal with issues in a timely fashion (our employees expect no less of each one of us).

High-quality Relationships – We expect all of our employees to treat each other, the people we serve, our partners, and our other BLM colleagues with the highest respect.

BLM RELOCATES FEDERALLY ENDANGERED RED-COCKADED WOODPECKERS IN FLORIDA

By Shayne Banks

Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Eastern States Jackson FO

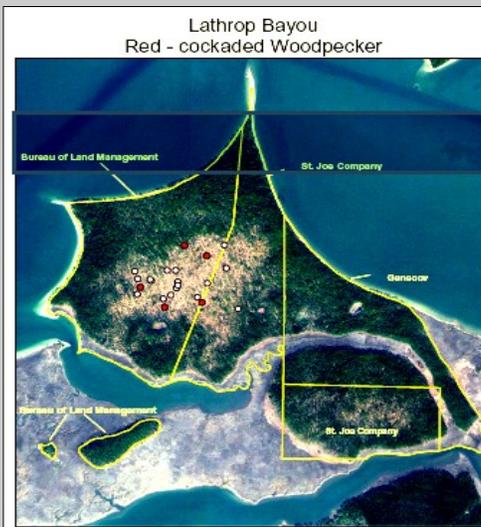
More than a hundred years ago, the Federally endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker was a common sight in open stands of old Longleaf pines throughout the southeastern United States. Throughout the decades, as ancient pine forests were lost, the population of this woodpecker decreased. By 1970 they were on the brink of extinction.



Red Cockaded Woodpecker

In December 2007, following an incredible day-long road trip from Mississippi, through Alabama, Georgia, and then to Florida, the first relocation of the Federally endangered woodpecker to Lathrop Bayou occurred. BLM biologists, Faye Winters and Alison McCartney and a biologist from St. Joe Company, a private partner, arrived at the donor site in southwest Georgia just in time to capture the two identified juvenile birds when they came to roost in their cavity trees for the evening. One male and one female were captured and carefully placed in ventilated boxes for immediate transportation to the tract in Florida.

It was a rare find when BLM, Jackson Field Office biologists discovered that there were two existing clusters of the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker located on a small tract of public land in northern Florida called Lathrop Bayou. The existing clusters consist of a reproducing pair and a juvenile male helper, and a cluster of only a male bird and his son, which had been without a female since 1995. "When the possibility of obtaining a female bird from a donor site became available, everyone was ecstatic and raring to go," said Bruce Dawson, Field Office Manager, BLM-Eastern States Jackson Field Office.



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ANNUAL MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL SPORTS SHOW

By Martha Malik

Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Eastern States Milwaukee FO

The 68th Annual Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show was held on March 12-16, 2008, at the Wisconsin State Fair Park. As part of the America's Outdoors Center partnership, the BLM-Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office, USDA Forest Service, Region 9, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and agency volunteers staffed the America's Outdoors Center exhibit during the Sports Show. There was recreation information provided on public lands in Wisconsin and on Federal lands across the United States. There were nearly 100,000 attendees during the show, which was a national record breaker. Agency volunteers contributed nearly 50 volunteer hours, and were a tremendous help to staff.



Photo by Jean Claasen

America's Outdoors show exhibit

MIDWEST MUSTANG CHALLENGE

By Karen Roberts

Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Eastern States

The rivalry among some exceptional horse trainers mixed with the desire to raise public awareness about the wild American Mustangs culminated in an awe-inspiring event in Madison, Wisconsin, April 18-19, at the Midwest Mustang Challenge. Fifty trainers from all walks of the horse world faced off with wild mustangs that only had 100 days of training on them in an event fit for experienced equines.

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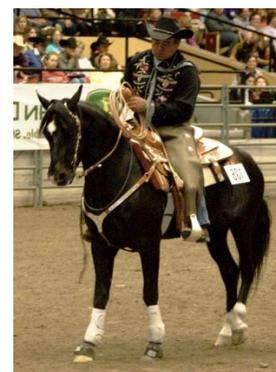


Photo by Alma Lively



Red -Cockaded Woodpecker...continued from page 3

After several hours in a vehicle and a moonlit boat ride to the site, the birds were placed and secured inside selected cavity trees. The birds were given the remainder of the night to become more acclimated to their new surroundings, and at daybreak, everyone returned to the tract to simultaneously release the birds.

The placement of the birds created a "chance meeting" between the newly transplanted male and female. As the biologists had hoped, the birds quickly struck up a conversation. "If that first conversation leads to a deeper relationship, the relocation can be counted a success," said BLM Biologist Winters. "It will be up to the birds to stay, survive, and reproduce in their new homes but we will know the outcome by the spring of 2008" said Winters.

Lathrop Bayou in Florida is home to 12 special status plants, nesting bald eagles, and BLM's only Red-Cockaded Woodpecker cluster, a Federally endangered species.

Lathrop Bayou has the potential to house three active, reproducing clusters of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers on its 550 acres of Longleaf pine/wiregrass habitat. The Lathrop Bayou relocation is the latest endeavor in a partnership to manage and restore the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker population between Federal, State and corporate entities in Florida.

HORSE ADOPTION IN LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

By Holly Fowler
Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Eastern States

BLM-ES held a Wild Horse and Burro adoption on March 28-29 in Lexington, Virginia. The adoption, held at the Virginia Horse Center, offered 70 animals ranging from yearlings to 5 years old. The event proved to be a success, finding good homes for over forty animals.

The BLM protects, manages, and controls wild horses and burros under the authority of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 to ensure that healthy herds thrive on healthy rangelands.

Thousands of animals have been adopted through the efforts of the Jackson Field Office, Milwaukee Field Office and through the State Office.

Photo by Holly Fowler



Happy winners of one of our WH&B door prizes.



Photo by Holly Fowler

Steve Meyers (Milwaukee FO) and his adopted horse "Sam", educate attendees about the adoption program.

MILITARY BOUNTY LAND WARRANTS AVAILABLE ON-LINE

By Larry Cave
Quality Assurance Specialist, BLM - Eastern States

The General Land Office (GLO) Records Team is currently processing over 500,000 Military Bounty Land Warrants (1,132 volumes) for addition to the GLO Records website at <http://www.gloreCORDS.blm.gov>. These warrants were issued for lands in the public domain to Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in return for their Federal military service prior to the Civil War (i.e., War of 1812), as well as to members of various state militias, including those from the original Thirteen Colonies.

To date, over 130,000 of these warrants issued under the Act of March 3, 1855 have been made available on-line. Additional warrants issued under Acts of Congress enacted in 1847, 1850, 1852 and so forth will be added to the GLO website over the next several years.

OFF SEASON SIZZLE

By Shayne Banks

Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Eastern States Jackson FO

The BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Hotshots assisted with a high profile prescribed burn in Palm Beach County, Florida on the BLM Eastern States managed Jupiter Inlet Natural Area. Because of unfavorable weather conditions, coupled with drought, the tract has been out of fire prescription for over two years. According to Lamar Liddell, BLM Fire Superintendent, "fate and favorable weather conditions collided on January 30, 2008, and we got a 24 hour window to try to pull off a complicated five acre urban burn." The area targeted for the burn was in an Area of Critical Environmental Concern or ACEC. The ACEC is surrounded by a gas station, several restaurants and many multi-million dollar condominiums and residences.

The burn took several hours to complete and according to Liddell, "it went off without a hitch. Our primary goal was achieved." That goal being the reduction of the possibility of a destructive wildfire which could threaten the surrounding community. It also improved wildlife habitat. The prescribed burn was a collaborative effort between BLM and Palm Beach County.

Continued on page 7



Jupiter Inlet

Photos by Lamar Liddell



OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE

By Karen Roberts

Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Eastern States

Fifty parcels of Federal subsurface land in Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, and West Virginia brought in almost \$15 million during a competitive auction of oil and gas leases in which 100 percent of the available leases sold. Approximately 7.9 million will go to the U.S. Treasury and the other \$8 Million will be shared by the affected States.

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Photo by Holly Fowler



ELRC AND WSLCA JOINT CONFERENCE

By Holly Fowler

Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Eastern States

The Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC) and the Western States Land Commissioners Association (WSLCA) held their annual joint spring conference in Washington, DC April 6-9. The conference *Emerging Challenges for State and Federal Public Land Managers* was a great success, having over 100 participants. This annual meeting provides an opportunity for State and Federal lands and resources managers to interact with colleagues from across the country who are experiencing some of the same challenges.

The four day conference included powerful speakers such as; Henri Bisson, Deputy Director for Operations, Erik Olson, Deputy Staff Director & General Counsel, Environment & Public Works Committee, Fred Norbury, Climate Change Advisor to the Chief to the U.S. Forest Service and many more. Topics for this conference covered everything from climate change to leasing wind and hydrokinetics. Attendees reported that this was the best conference yet, and really liked the variety of topics addressed as well as the open discussion formats.

ELRC helps to foster communications and strengthen professional relationships among its members of the Federal offices and related fields. The ELRC hosts two meetings per year for members to interact directly with Federal and State officials to discuss issues of national, State or local concern.

Photo by Holly Fowler



Henri Bisson addresses conference attendees.

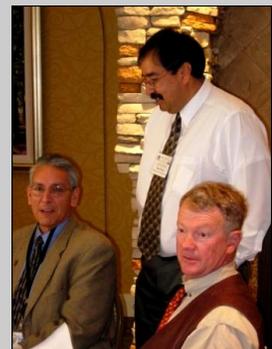


Photo by Holly Fowler

Juan Palma BLM-ES State Director, networks with ELRC conference attendees.

MILWAUKEE FIELD OFFICE EXPANDS OUTREACH TO OIL AND GAS OPERATORS

By Jim Wood

Petroleum Engineering Technician, BLM - Eastern States Milwaukee FO

In February and March 2008, the BLM-Eastern States Milwaukee Field Office (MFO) staff and representatives from the State Office (SO) attended three meetings focused on oil and gas industry trends and issues of today in the States of Ohio, Michigan and West Virginia. The annual oil and gas meetings provided a valuable opportunity for the BLM to proactively extend outreach to the oil and gas operators for these three states and their neighboring States. Outreach efforts such as this will spread the awareness of BLM's mission in the East, not only relating to oil and gas operations but also the other six major BLM program areas.

"The annual oil and gas meetings provided a valuable opportunity for the BLM-ESO/MFO to proactively extend outreach to the oil and gas operators ..."

The West Virginia Independent Oil and Gas Association (WV IOGA) annual meeting was held on February 5-6, 2008, in Charleston, West Virginia, with over 500 attendees. BLM-ES MFO Team Lead for Fluid Minerals, Steve Klimetz, attended this meeting. The facilitated technical presentations and discussions at the meeting focused on cooperative efforts between service providers and Operators to improve field safety, updated well completion and measurement systems, and understand new technology for shale. This meeting provided Steve an opportunity to network with oil and gas industries and keep abreast of the updated well completion systems and new technology that could affect BLM oil and gas operations in the future.

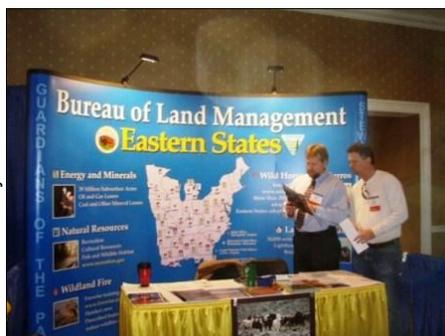


Photo by Jim Wood

Oil and Gas Association annual meeting

The 61st Ohio Oil and Gas Association (OOGA) annual meeting was held on March 13-14, 2008, in Gahanna, Ohio, with over 600 attendees. Many were interested in the Federal regulations and the leasing of oil and gas minerals. BLM-ES has been informally working with OOGA and exhibiting at their trade shows for the past three years and we have received favorable and practical feedback from the attendees. This feedback helps us to evaluate how we can continue improvements on the ground. The BLM-ES exhibit at the OOGA annual meeting was staffed by MFO Field Manager, Mark Storzer, ESO Energy and Minerals Program Lead, Frank Martin, MFO Team Lead Fluid Minerals, Steve Klimetz, and MFO Petroleum Engineering Technician, Jim Wood. Many attendees visited the BLM-ES exhibit to ask various questions ranging from: how to obtain a Federal oil and gas lease, to how to adopt a wild horse. The most frequently asked question was, "Where are the Federal minerals located within the State of Ohio?"

The Michigan Oil and Gas Association/Petroleum Technology Transfer Council (MOGA/PTTC) annual meeting was held on March 20, 2008, in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, with 200 attendees. BLM-MFO Associate Field Manager, Tim O'Brien, and Team Lead for Fluid Minerals, Steve Klimetz, participated in the meeting. The MFO staff has not previously attended this meeting, but felt it was a valuable opportunity since there has been increased oil and gas leasing interest in Michigan. Tim O'Brien facilitated a presentation on the "Roles and Responsibilities of BLM" and Federal regulations and guidelines regarding the Fluid Minerals Program and also provided a map outlining the "Overview of Federal Mineral Ownership in the State of Michigan." BLM representatives staffed the BLM-ES exhibit at this meeting, as well as provided resource materials for the attendees and general public.

Participating at association meetings, such as OOGA, MOGA/PTTC, and the WV IOGA, is instrumental in meeting the goal of implementing MFO's Energy and Minerals Outreach and Communication Plan. Being involved in these meetings, and meeting people face-to-face, makes it easier and more comfortable for the operators to contact the BLM with their questions and concerns about oil for gas issues on the ground. Our participation builds a more personal and effective relationship and both the BLM and the operators. All of those who participated in these three meetings are looking forward to many more years of collaborating as an ES Team in support of BLM's mission and goals.

Off Season Sizzle ..Continued from page 5

Photo by Shayne Banks



This strategic location contains regionally important natural, historic and prehistoric resources, including the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, a host of special status species and imperiled habitats, all in an urbanized setting. Jupiter Inlet is cooperatively managed by BLM and six local partners made up of representatives from Federal and local governments and non-profit organizations, collectively called the Jupiter Inlet Working Group. Over the last decade, this group has accomplished a great deal at the site, such as wetland construction, river slope stabilization following hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, fuel hazard reduction in the wildland urban interface, and habitat improvement for endangered species.

The area has been proposed as an Outstanding Natural Area, part of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). In April 2007, a bill was introduced in both the Senate and the House. Currently the bill has passed out of the full committee in the Senate and House and is now awaiting floor vote. This area offers a unique opportunity to provide critical and rapidly vanishing publicly owned green space in a highly urbanized part of Florida.

Oil and Gas... continued from page 5

The BLM has the responsibility for leasing the Federally-owned minerals and offers selected parcels at quarterly competitive auctions. The next competitive gas lease sale is scheduled for July 2008 in Springfield, Virginia.

The BLM manages more land (258 million surface acres) than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical and cultural resources on the public lands.

MILWAUKEE FIELD OFFICE DRAWS GREEN BAY PACKER FAN

By Martha Malik

Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Eastern States Milwaukee FO

Photo by Jim Engstrom



In September 2007, the BLM-Eastern States (ES) Milwaukee Field Office staff welcomed their new Field Manager, Mark Storzer. Originally from Wisconsin, it was a smooth transition for Mark to come back home, and it goes without saying that he is an avid Green Bay Packer fan.

Mark began his career with the USDA Forest Service in McCall, Idaho. After a couple of seasons hiking throughout the roadless areas of central Idaho conducting riparian surveys, Mark went to work for the BLM on the Idaho Falls District. He served as a hydrologist and hazardous materials coordinator in Idaho and was also very active as a firefighter. He then spent several years as a hydrologist in Coos Bay, Oregon and then served as the State Office hydrologist in Colorado.

Mark has also served as the BLM Water Rights Lead in Washington, D.C. and as the Associate Field Manager in Battle Mountain, Nevada. Prior to coming to Milwaukee, Mark spent three years as the Field Manager in Rawlins, Wyoming, where he established the Rawlins Field Office as one of only seven Energy Pilot Offices in the BLM as identified in the 2005 Energy Act.

He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with B.S. degrees in Water Resources and Natural Resource Management and a Minor in Environmental Law Enforcement. Mark and his wife enjoy working on all types of home improvement projects, fishing, and spending time with their dogs. And don't forget watching the Green Bay Packers!

EASTERN STATES-LANGLADE COUNTY LAND SOLD

By Carol Gundman
Realty Specialist, BLM - Eastern States Milwaukee FO

A 1.18 acre parcel of land in northern Wisconsin was sold to the highest bidder on October 9, 2007 for the Fair Market Value of \$93,000. The land was offered for-sale under competitive bidding procedures according to section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The sale generated widespread interest from local and Statewide parties. The overall number of contacts received during and after the sale period was significantly increased by posting the sale on the Eastern States web-site. This highly desirable property was located on Lower Bass Lake in Langlade County, and offered 350 feet of frontage on a clear spring feed lake. The high bidders for the property were issued a patent through the Chicago Title Company at the Milwaukee Field Office on April 2, 2008.

Photo by Carol Gundman



Lower Bass Lake property

The sale of this land is a rare occurrence, as BLM does not normally have land to sell to the public. On rare occasions, such as this, land will become available.

BLM PARTNERS EXTEND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

By Shayne Banks
Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Eastern States Jackson FO



A five year extension of the Lathrop Bayou Land Stewardship Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in February, 2008, in Panama City, Florida. This MOU lays out plans to manage Lathrop Bayou and Wetappo Creek Conservation Area. Signatories included BLM, St. Joe Company, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Genecov Group. Some of the accomplishments of the first five years include two prescribed burns, Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) relocations and vegetation monitoring. "We've made something that was really nothing into something that was really powerful," said Bruce Dawson, Jackson Field Office field manager.

In 2002, they signed an agreement to manage two tracts – Lathrop Bayou in Bay County and the Wetappo Creek Conservation Area in Gulf County – specifically for the purpose of restoring breeding populations of the Red-

Cockaded Woodpecker. Wetappo Creek is owned entirely by St. Joe, and the company volunteered to set it aside in conservation and manage it for the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker. Lathrop Bayou is owned jointly by St. Joe, BLM and Genecov.

In December, 2007, the partners relocated a male-female pair of woodpeckers to Lathrop – the first effort toward restoring that area to its potential complement of three active breeding clusters. "It has been a real joy to work with this group," said Janet Mizzi, Deputy Field Supervisor with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Panama City, Florida, field office. "We have about 43 listed species that we're trying to work with just in Northwest Florida. We don't have the time to initiate these types of things ourselves."

During the signing ceremony, BLM honored St. Joe wildlife biologists Jim Moyers and Steve Shea for their work on the MOU, and Bay County biologists Ed and Lisa Keppner for their hours of volunteer work at Lathrop Bayou. "Without you guys it would have never happened," Dawson told Moyers and Shea. The Keppners have volunteered at Lathrop – conducting field surveys and compiling species inventories from 1997 to 2002. "That's a lot of volunteering. They have given so much of themselves to us for this project," he said.



Photos by Alma Lively



Mustang Challenge... continued from page 3

The Midwest Mustang Challenge is one of several events sponsored by the Mustang Heritage Foundation (MHF) in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

“Susanne Myers of Port Matilda, Pennsylvania, emerged the winner of the \$5,000 purse in the challenge, but in reality, the fifty wild American mustangs that found good adoptive homes after the event were the real winners”, said Juan Palma, State Director, BLM-Eastern States.

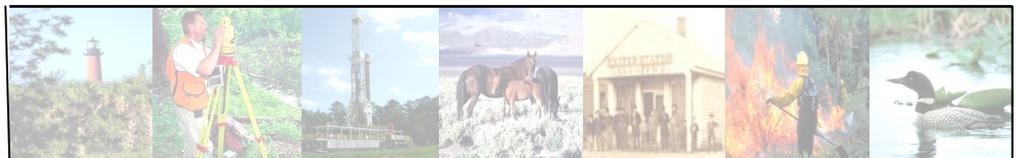
The top fetching animal in the adoption was Elvis, a black mustang, trained by Lalo Govea in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Elvis brought in \$9,000, with \$7,000 in proceeds benefiting HospiceCares.

The Mustang Heritage Foundation (MHF), in partnership with the U.S. BLM, created the Extreme Mustang Makeover and Mustang Challenge events to highlight the recognized value of wild American Mustangs through a national training competition. The purpose of the competitions is to showcase the beauty, versatility, and trainability of these rugged horses that roam freely on public lands throughout the West, where they are protected by the BLM under Federal law. In order to manage the herds and maintain both land and herd health, the BLM oversees the adoption of wild horses and burros through public adoptions held throughout the United States to keep the population the right size for the available food and water. Since 1973, more than 219,000 wild horses and burros have been adopted through the BLM adoption program.



Photo by Alma Lively

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